



# HENDERSON COUNTY ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

## **Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) minutes: February 14, 2011**

**Present:** Chair Stan Kumor, Vice Chair Jim Phelps, Ms. Debbie Hicks, Mr. Joseph McGuth, Mr. Thomas Gregg McMinn, Mr. Robert Delwiche, Ms. Emily Anderson, Mr. Terry Maybin,

**Guests:** Mr. Jerry Cox (Etowah Lions), Mr. Jack Keyes (Etowah Lions), Mr. Jerry Schnitzius (Waste Pro)

**Staff:** Commissioner Larry Young, Marcus Jones, Natalie Berry, Alexis Baker

### **Welcome/Call to Order**

### **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes are approved by consensus with the addition of Mr. McMinn and Ms. Anderson as attending the January meeting.

### **Discussion**

#### Material Reports

Recycling reports still show a positive increase in recycling due to the increase in single stream blue bag recycling brought in by Henderson County haulers. Revenues and volume is still down about 25% from 2007 levels for MSW and construction and demolition wastes.

#### Recycling Contracts

Two proposals for recycling will be brought to the Board of Commissioners at the upcoming meeting on Wednesday. American Recycling is proposing to build a material recovery facility while Curbside Management brought in a proposal with slightly better prices for recyclables. However, American Recycling will bring in competition to WNC and help increase recycling markets.

Initially, American Recycling was going to receive a \$550,000 loan from the County to build a material recovery facility. Now, the MRF will be built with their own funds. The material recovery facility will bring in a second location to accept recycling. Additionally, haulers who bring their recycling to the MRF may receive payment for the recyclable materials. The growth of haulers in recycling could otherwise create an expense for Henderson County, resulting in charging a cost for recycling.

## Construction Contract

On the meeting on the February 9<sup>th</sup>, the County Commissioners revisited the capital improvements at the Stoney Mountain Transfer Center. The decision was reversed and the commissioners have decided to approve both the commercial and residential portions of the construction including improving the recycling convenience center. Estimates for the construction were at \$4.5 million. However, due to the economy, construction will be able to be accomplished at \$3.45 million. The commissioners decided that this was the best time to finish up improvements due to the favorable construction costs. However, in order to finance this construction, the tipping fee will be increased from \$52 per ton to \$55 per ton as of April 1<sup>st</sup>. The construction contract was given to Cooper Construction.

## Flow Control

Flow control would require all haulers to bring trash picked up in Henderson County to the Henderson County facility. This would help to lower the tipping fees as it is often the larger haulers who are taking their garbage outside the county for disposal. ***After a short discussion, a unanimous decision was made to recommend the adoption of flow control in Henderson County.***

## Convenience Center Revenue

Ten to twelve years ago a bag for bag program was instated to increase recycling. There is a lot of abuse of the system and revenue is lost from the inequity of the cost of trash over any revenue generated from recycling. Many people also dump trash without bringing in recycling. It may also encourage more people to use county haulers. The next budget will include flow control and will eliminate the bag for bag program. For those with economic hardships, a sticker program can be used by DSS to allow those the ability to dispose of their trash for free or at a reduced cost.

***The committee made a unanimous recommendation that we should discontinue the bag for bag program and charge for the disposal of MSW.***

## Other issues

It was reiterated that haulers have until January 31, 2014 to have compliant municipal solid waste hauling equipment. After that date, a business without compliant equipment cannot operate in Henderson County.

It was also reiterated that the recycling requirement for haulers does not just apply to residential haulers but also for commercial haulers as well. This would also include businesses that offer dumpsters. Dumpsters are, however, not permitted uses on residential properties.

Meetings will be held on a quarterly basis.

Next meeting is March 21, 2011

*Meeting Adjourned*

Minutes submitted by Ms. Alexis Baker

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